

**Alternative Energy Committee
September 24, 2013**

Members present: Larry Bean, Chair; Burke Henry, Vice Chair; Glenn Carlson and Tom Banner

Members absent: Carl Frederickson

Also present: Public present:

1. Call to order.

The Alternative Energy Committee meeting called to order by Chair Larry Bean on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at 10:03 am at the Town Hall. A quorum of the committee is present as reflected in the members listed above.

2. Minutes of the following meetings to be considered for approval:

A. August 29, 2013.

Motion by G. Carlson, second, T. Banner to approve the August 29, 2013 Alternative Energy Committee minutes as presented. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

3. Report of DNR site visit/inspection

Tom Benwitz of the DNR looked at the closed landfill site on Sept 16th. Tom spoke with Ted Pallas, Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) supervisor about the cap on the closed landfill.

B. Henry also met with Tom and wanted to know if there would be a reason the DNR would say no to a project such as this. If the DNR had a reason to say no then this committee would not spend the time or money for engineering. Tom said there was no reason to say there was an absolute no. His concern is for the integrity of the cap. There is a lot of methane down there and there could be some settling of the ground depending upon what is down there. A cable or trench would be of concern.

B. Henry said a suitable container above ground would be used so there would not be a reason to penetrate the cap. B. Henry also said there were alternate sites for a solar installation on the Island.

Tom knows that some members of the committee are coming to Madison and he would like to sit in on some of the meetings. L. Bean sent Tom a thank you letter and included the meeting time and place in Madison.

B. Henry mapped out the site on Google Earth and also mapped out the airport area. L. Bean asked Michael Dalzell, Airport Manager to check with the FAA about a solar installation at the airport. Michael said the FAA encourages people to use the land around the airport for haying, etc. but there is always the caveat about use and so Michael was a little guarded whether the FAA would allow a solar installation there.

4. Town of La Pointe Emergency Plan Update

B. Henry has been asked to chair a workgroup to update the 2002 Emergency Plan and is in the process of setting a meeting with the department heads of police, fire, ambulance, roads, ice rescue and the Town Administrator, Pete Clark. B. Henry has asked the department heads for suggestions as well as what they use for backup power including the type of equipment, size, fuel storage, etc. He would like to have the revision ready by mid-November. G. Carlson asked if the emergency plan would cover more than a 2-3 day outage. B. Henry said that will be a part of the discussion. There is a need to define emergency. The present emergency plan was set up

on the theory that if a significant emergency say, a forest fire, happened, you better be able to get people off the island in 3 days.

B. Henry will let committee members know the date of the workgroup meeting.

L. Bean has been emailing someone he knows at Northern Arizona University who is an advisor to Excel Energy and an expert on microgrids. This person is now at St. Thomas University, St. Paul, MN and has received a multimillion dollar grant to facilitate microgrids including \$2.2 million from Xcel for a conference center in St Paul. L. Bean mentioned what we were doing in regards to microgrids and emergency preparedness and he thought that was an excellent idea.

5. Review and discussion of AEC mission, goals, objectives and action plan.

L. Bean needs information from C. Frederickson, T. Banner and G. Carlson as to their professions by this week in order to update the mission, goals, objectives and action plan of the Alternative Energy Committee which he will take to Madison. This paper will also be submitted with grant applications.

L. Bean has changed the names of the committee members, added a last sentence to paragraph 2 and added a new third paragraph.

The AEC work plan was changed as discussed at the August 29, 2013 meeting.

Motion by B. Henry to accept the changes to the Alternative Energy Committee and the Alternative Energy 2013 Work Plan as discussed. Second, G. Carlson. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

6. Budget 2014

A. Capital Expenditures

B. Town and Facility energy use and cost.

The wood fired boiler appears not to interest the Town, but two of the five Town Board members are interested. Pete Clark said the Town insurance agent does not have a concern about wood fired boilers.

L. Bean will need help with information on some of the capital expenditures.

G. Carlson is working on Town propane amounts and costs.

7. Grant Initiatives.

Focus on Energy and the USDA Rural Development grant application are not available until after the first of the year. B. Henry will finalize the Island Association grant application.

L. Bean was told by the Dept of Administration, State Energy office, that there is a young woman with DNR who has helped write grants for feasibility studies for brown fields and closed landfill sites. L. Bean had a phone meeting with her yesterday. She is very enthused with our project and has committed herself to look for funding for this. The grant will most likely be pieced together with several grants rather than one large grant. She also has concerns about the integrity of the cap.

L. Bean talked to Connie Ross, Library Director about the solar installation at the Library and Clinic. Connie has two different grant applications. L. Bean said we could use some of the Library grant money for a match. Tom Benwitz of the DNR raised the question if it would be

more economical to have an installation at the Library and one at MRF when providing for one entity which is the Town.

This committee also needs to take into consideration the Monona project where the city of Monona is planning to have solar panels installed on multiple public buildings.

8. Madison Itinerary.

L. Bean has the itinerary for Madison. He and G. Carlson are making the trip.

Don Wichert said a number of communities have signed on to support Clean Energy Wisconsin and in order to do this the Town Board would have to pass a resolution. L. Bean has a sample resolution from La Crosse County and would basically re-write paragraph five for the Town of La Pointe: "Whereas, La Crosse County urges the State of Wisconsin to adopt a policy expressly allowing customers to enter into contracts with third parties who install, own, and operate a renewable energy system at the customer's premises by supporting Clean Energy Choice, which will help households and businesses overcome the diminishing supply of renewable energy incentive dollars available from Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program and utilities at no extra cost to ratepayers and taxpayers and;"

L. Bean will send the Resolution to the Town Board and suggest the Board pass this resolution at their October 8th Town Board meeting.

Agreement by committee.

9. Marketing and Community Outreach.

B. Henry has materials.

Tom Banner leaves at 10:30am.

10. Set next meeting and agenda.

Next meeting scheduled for October 8th at 10:00am

11. Adjourn.

Motion by B. Henry to adjourn, second, G. Carlson. All in favor, all aye, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35am.

Minutes taken from recorder and respectfully submitted by Kathy Erickson, Clerical Assistant

Minutes approved as presented October 8, 2013